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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically synthesized ~~double-stranded~~ modified nucleic acid molecule ~~comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand~~, wherein:

a~~[[.]]~~ the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sense strand and a separate antisense strand, each strand of said double-stranded nucleic acid molecule is about 18 to about 27 nucleotides in length having one or more pyrimidine nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;

b) each strand of the nucleic acid molecule is independently 18 to 27 nucleotides in length;

~~[[b.]] c) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the antisense strand of said double-stranded the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to a human huntingtin intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM) nucleotide RNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:439; and the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strand; and~~

~~c. said double-stranded nucleic acid molecule comprises at least two different chemically modified nucleotides;~~

d) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the sense strand of the nucleic acid is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the human ICAM RNA sequence;

e) about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in the sense strand and about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in the antisense strand are chemically modified with modifications independently selected from the group consisting of 2'-O-methyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-deoxy, phosphorothioate and deoxybasic modifications; and

f) one or more of the purine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides and one or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 ~~one~~ or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 ~~one~~ or more of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
15. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 ~~one~~ or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the sense strand.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 ~~one~~ or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in the said antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides
19. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 ~~one~~ or more of the purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
20. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 ~~one~~ or more of the purine nucleotides present in the antisense strand are 2'-deoxy[[-]purine nucleotides.
21. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand ~~comprises~~ includes a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of the antisense strand.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Currently Amended) The ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein the 5'-end of the antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.
31. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising the ~~double-stranded~~ nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

32. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein 1, 2, or 3 of the purine nucleotides present in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
33. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand, sense strand, or both the antisense strand and sense strand include a 3'-overhang of 1-3 nucleotides.
34. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 33, wherein the nucleotides of the 3'-overhang are chemically modified to comprise one or more phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages, 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotides, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro ribonucleotides, 2'-deoxy ribonucleotides, universal base nucleotides, 5-C-methyl nucleotides, inverted deoxyabasic moieties, or a combination thereof.